

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO TPHY IN
SUBJECT: RESEARCH CONTRACT - RFP - NIH-NEI-77-3
"BRUNESCENT HUMAN CATARACTS"

1. SINCE RECEIVING NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE MEMORANDUM TO
ATHERTON, EMBASSY HAS LOOKED INTO THE PROPOSED CONTRACT TO SUPPLY
BRUNESCENT CATERACTS TO OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ONCE AGAIN. THANKS
TO AN OPHTHALMOLOGICAL CONFERENCE TAKING PLACE IN INDIA WE WERE
ABLE TO TALK WITH BOTH DR. VENKAT REDDY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
AND DR. SIVA REDDY, HIS PROPOSED COUNTERPART AT SAROJINI DEVI
EYE HOSPITAL, HYDERABAD. WE ARE PREPARED TO CLEAR THE CONTRACT,
WITH CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS AND CAVEATS.
2. DR. VENKAT REDDY ADVISED US THAT HE WAS MODIFYING THE TERMS
OF THE CONTRACT TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN BIOCHEMICAL ANALYSES
TO BE DONE IN INDIA, RATHER THAN SIMPLY USING SAROJINI DEVI
HOSPITAL AS A COLLECTION POINT. MOREOVER, HE EXPLAINED THAT
THERE WERE NO LONGER ANY PLANS TO USE CATERACTS COLLECTED FROM
EYE CAMPS FOR THIS CONTRACT, SINCE PRESERVATION OF THE CATARACTS
COULD NOT BE ASSURED AT THE CAMPS. THUS ALL THE CATARACTS
SUPPLIED WOULD COME FROM SURGERY DONE UNDER CAREFULLY CONTROLLED
CONDITIONS IN HOSPITALS. WITH THESE TWO MODIFICATIONS, WE
BELIEVE THAT THE RISK OF THE PROJECT OFFENDING LOCAL SENSIBILITIES
IS REDUCED.
3. OUR OTHER CONCERN HAD BEEN MORE BUREAUCRATIC. ALL DIRECTLY-
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FUNDED USG RESEARCH IN INDIA IS UNDERTAKEN ONLY WITH THE EXPLICIT
CONCURRENCE OF THE GOI. SAROJINI DEVI EYE HOSPITAL IS A STATE
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION AND MUST THUS GET THE PERMISSION OF THE
ANDHRA PRADESH GOVERNMENT BEFORE ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH
A FOREIGN INSTITUTION. BECAUSE THE MONEY FOR THE CONTRACT WOULD
ULTIMATELY COME FROM THE USG, DR. SIVA REDDY IS ALSO ANXIOUS TO
HAVE SOME KIND OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CLEARANCE BEFORE GOING

AHEAD. WE STRONGLY CONCUR IN THIS, AND OUR CLEARANCE FOR THE
PROJECT IS CONDITIONED ON ITS OBTAINING THIS CLEARANCE. AT DR.
SIVA REDDY'S REQUEST WE WILL WORK WITH HIM TO TRY TO SPEED
THINGS UP.
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